Shock - It's written in your eyes

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Shock - It's written in your eyes

by reid_simp

Summary

Ada doesn't recognise the man that lives in her brother's body anymore. His eyes used to have a little spark of Tommy, but not anymore. It left a long time ago.

Notes

See the end of the work for notes

Ada hardly sees her brother anymore. He stopped appearing a long time ago. Now he's just a shadow walking in his body.

She remembers wanting to hug him when he returned from France. Polly told her that things might be different, that they might have bad dreams or be sad, but she didn't expect whatever happened, but it wasn't her brother than came home. Her brother that laughed and cried and played with her and read her to sleep when she was little. His eyes wouldn't meet hers or Polly's at the train station. Arthur and John were trying to keep up appearances but clearly missed their brother.

Ada wonders often what happened. What happened to the boy over in France that changed him, so that she didn't recognise the man that came home.

He almost doesn't remind her of him anymore. She used to look at him, imagining who he used to be. Thinking about what he'd be like now if things had been different. Used to look at him and hope there was a chance there was a little of him left.

No one told her that he'd tried to kill himself the morning after the assassination attempt, but she'd known because, when she'd visited the aura aroud him was all broken, and it was more than the bodies on the driveway.

She'd thought he was already broken. She'd thought every part of him she'd known from before France was gone. She'd thought there was nothing else. Polly dying broke him. She didn't know it was possible, thought it was far too late for that sort of thing.

He changed after that. Ada stayed at the house for a while, because Lizzie didn't know how to deal with him. But she'd done this before, with Grace. But she couldn't tell Lizzie that, because the house goes odd at the mention of her name. She allowed him to stay with her under the condition she didn't tell Arthur about his condition, because Tommy by then was starting to get very worried about him.

Ada didn't realise the capacity of Tommy's space to be broken until Ruby went. She knew it would destroy him but couldn't predict how it would affect him beyond that. He stumbled and crashed. She could swear he fogot how to be a human, and he stopped functioning. The days between her death and her funeral reminded her of the days of limbo between Grace's death and her funeral, wherein Tommy walked between consciousness and void. She saw the same empty grief in his eyes after Ruby died. The day after the funeral, Arthur called her to tell her Tommy had started drinking again.

It left her with an odd, empty feeling. It wasn't disappointment that he'd lost his four years of sobriety. It wasn't happiness - just because Tommy drunk was looser-tongued, a bit of a better brother – it also made him suicidal and unstable.

Ada thought he was dead because Arthur had a breakdown. Every breakdown worse than the last. Finally he broke down and told her everything. She freaked out, insisting they find him and stop him, but Arthur had accepted it by this point, understanding it as Tommy's way out.

He couldn’t stand to go sick and insane, unable to do anything for himself, and so over the few months she had to, Ada began to understand.

When Tommy showed up one day, tears in his eyes and in a suit he clearly hadn’t changed in a long time, she saw in his eyes a glimmer of the Tommy she hadn’t seen in many years.

End Notes

I literally have had a crazy week and so this is a day late! I'm trying really hard! but bare with, also i've never done this before, soooo you know i'm just trying haha

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